

PATENT

Docket No. 12013/60801

#15/B
4/12/03
Tenn**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS : S. LARSON, et al.
SERIAL NO. : 09/635,083
FILED : August 8, 2000
FOR : CATHETER SHAFT ASSEMBLY
GROUP ART UNIT : 3762
EXAMINER : LoAn H. Thanh

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

SIR:

The undersigned submits this Response as a reply to the May 22, 2002, Office Action, which set a three-month shortened statutory period of response extending to and including August 22, 2002.

The undersigned authorizes the Director to charge deposit account no. 11-0600 for any fee associated with examination of this paper and to credit the same account with any applicable overpayment.

Prior to further examination on the merits, the undersigned requests that the following changes be made to the application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the title "Related Applications" and the paragraph directly beneath it, which begins on page 1 line 3 and ends on page 1 line 7.

Replace the last paragraph on page 10, beginning at line 16 and continuing onto page 11 ending at line 2, with the following paragraph.

CATHETER SHAFT ASSEMBLY

Related Applications

7/19 9/3/04
The present application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. _____, filed by the same assignee on even date herewith and entitled "Tortuose Path Injection Device and Method." The present application is also related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. _____, filed by the same assignee on even date herewith and entitled "~~Controlled Depth Injection Device and Method.~~"

Field of the Invention

Sub A1
10 The present invention relates generally to intravascular catheters for performing medical procedures. More particularly, the present invention relates to shaft assemblies for used in intravascular catheters. Still, more particularly, the present invention relates to catheter shaft assemblies for use in injection catheters.

Background of the Invention

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15 Intravascular catheters are currently utilized in a wide variety of minimally-invasive or percutaneous medical procedures. Generally, an intravascular catheter enables a physician to remotely perform a medical procedure by inserting the catheter into the vascular system of the patient at an easily accessible location and navigating the tip of the catheter to a desirable target site. By this method, virtually any target site in the patient's vascular system may be remotely accessed.

20 Typically, a percutaneous procedure begins with the step of inserting a distal portion of the catheter into the patient's vasculature at a convenient location. Once the distal portion of the catheter has entered the patient's vascular system the physician may urge the distal tip forward by applying longitudinal forces to the proximal portion of the